

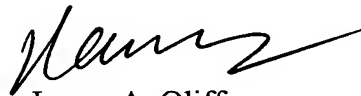
As agreed during the personal interview, Takahashi does not teach or suggest the features of independent claims 1 and 20. Thus, as agreed during the personal interview, the outstanding rejections over Takahashi will be withdrawn. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

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Registration No. 56,046

JAO:RBI/hms

Date: December 28, 2006

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